16. (Amended) In a system for providing future programming information, in which system displayable indicia are pre-associated with commands at a head end and provided as a part of the future programming information in a displayable data stream, a set top box, comprising;

a broadband receiver to receive the displayable data stream;

circuitry to select the future programming information, including the displayable indicia, and to cause it to be displayed; and

user-operable apparatus to select the displayable indicia;

characterized in that, in response to selecting the displayable indicia, the command associated with the selected displayable indicia is executed.

17. The set top box of claim 16 wherein execution of the command comprises switching the display to a channel associated with the future programming.

18. (Amended) The set top box of claim 16 wherein a portion of the information received comprises WEB pages in a Markup Language.

19. (Amended) The set top box of claim 16 wherein the broadband receiver comprises a satellite data link adapted to download a satellite-broadcasted data stream, and the information is received via the satellite data link.

20. (Amended) The set top box of claim 19 wherein a portion of the information received by satellite data link comprises Markup Language.

21. (Amended) The set top box of claim 16 wherein the future programming information is received along with television programming.

22. (Amended) The set top box of claim 21 further comprising a cache memory system wherein the future programming information including the command and displayable indicia associated with the command are stored.

23. (Amended) The set top box of claim 16 wherein the broadband receiver further comprises a satellite data link adapted to download a satellite-broadcast data stream, and a land-based modem, and the future programming information is received by one or both of the satellite data link and the land-based modem.

24. The set top box of claim 16 further comprising a user-operable WEB browser for browsing for Web-based information.

25. (Amended) In a system for providing future programming information, in which system displayable indicia are pre-associated with commands at a head end and provided as a part of the future programming information in a displayable data stream, a method for commanding a set-top box to initiate a function, comprising the steps of:

    (a) receiving by a broadband receiver in the set-top box the displayable data stream;

    (b) selecting the displayable data stream by circuitry in the set top box, and causing it to be displayed; and

    (c) selecting the displayed indicia by a user-operable apparatus, causing the associated command to be executed.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein, in step (c), execution of the command comprises switching the display to a channel associated with the future programming.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein a portion of the displayable data stream comprises WEB pages in a Markup Language.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the broadband receiver comprises a satellite data link to download a satellite-broadcasted data stream, and the displayable data stream is received via the satellite data link.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein a portion of the displayable data stream received by satellite data link comprises Markup Language.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the displayable data stream comprises television programming in addition to the future programming information.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising a cache memory system wherein the future programming information is stored.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the set top box further comprises a satellite data link adapted to download a satellite-broadcast data stream, and a land-based modem, and the future programming information is received by one or both of the satellite data link and the land-based modem.

33. The method of claim 25 further comprising a user-operable WEB browser for browsing for Web-based information.

Cancel claims 34 through 37.